

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 - 12 as filed, and insert therefore new claims 13 - 24 as follows:

- - What is Claimed is:

13. A method for re-routing data packets of a packet-switching network onto at least one alternate network capable of assuring a quality requested by a network user, the packet-switching network and the at least one alternate network form sub-networks of a network over which data packets can be transmitted, including at least one source node and at least one destination node that are each respectively one of either directly or indirectly connected to an access node via at least one intermediate node, the access node being capable of setting up a connection both to the packet-switching network and to one of the at least one alternate network, the method comprising:

identifying only by a respective bit pattern known to the access node the data packets to be routed via an alternate network in the source node by a bit pattern known to the access node that is connected to the source node either directly or indirectly via at least one intermediate node;

recognizing said known bit pattern upon arrival of such data packets in the access node; and

re-routing the data packets identified with only the known bit pattern onto an alternate network.

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14. A method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of using a filter in the access node to check data packets arriving from a source node for the known bit pattern; and

initiating the re-routing of the data packets identified with this bit pattern onto an alternate network when a known bit pattern is recognized.

15. A method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of connecting to the source node one of either directly or indirectly via at least one intermediate node containing a table for determining traffic paths into which the function of the filter is integrated, the table additionally contains bit patterns that can produce a re-routing of the data packet identified with such bit patterns onto an alternate network.

16. A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of locating the known bit pattern in the header of a data packet to be routed via the alternate network.

17. A method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of using the same bit pattern in at least one source node regardless of the respectively requested quality.

18. A method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of using in at least one source node, bit patterns corresponding to the respectively requested quality.

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19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of using bit pattern of a data packet to produce a re-routing thereof onto at least one alternate network corresponding to the bit pattern with a specific quality.

20. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of using each recognized bit pattern of a data packet to produce a re-routing thereof onto at least one alternate network with a quality corresponding to the recognized bit pattern.

21. A method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of preventing the re-routing of the data packet onto at least one alternate network, if after recognition of such a bit pattern of a data packet to be routed via the at least one alternate network in such an access node, the at least one alternate network cannot offer the quality corresponding to the bit pattern.

22. A method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of having the at least one source node send the data packets to communicate a message via the packet-switching network to at least one destination node with respect to the data packets to be routed via the at least one alternate network; and waiting for an acknowledge from the at least one destination node.

23. A method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of having the access node connected to the at least one source node send a message with

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